district Supply Officer, Nagpur for allowing Hindustan Petroleum LPG connections to general public through Coal Mines Workers Credit Cooperative Society, Patansaongi, Tehsil-Saoner, District Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to allow the society to extend the facility to general public (other than the coal mines workers) in view of the demand from different Panchayats of Saoner Taluka villages?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) had received representations from District Supply Officer, Nagpur to supply LPG to the general public at Tehsil Saoner through Coal Mines Workers Credit Cooperative Society, Patansaongi which is a project distributorship of HPCL to cater to the requirements of workers of Western Coal Fields at Patansaongi.

(c) At present, Government is not considering to extend the area of operation of project distributor to the general public. However, Saoner has been included under the Marketing Plan for setting up of a distributorship.

Regularisation of services of contract employees in EIL

*271. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineers India Limited (EIL) are appointing technical and non-technical employees on contract basis every year on consolidated salaries;

(b) if so, how many such employees have been absorbed/ appointed on regular basis against regular vacancies during the past five years;

(c) whether EIL is not adhering to the rules/regulations framed by the Department of Personnel in the matter of absorption; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to regularise the services of such contract employees against regular vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4 technical and 39 non-technical employees, employed on contract basis, have been appointed on regular basis against regular vacancies during the last five years.

(c) and (d) Rules/regulations framed by Department of Personnel and Training in the matter of absorption are not applicable to Engineers India Limited (EIL). However, the company has its own rules and regulations, broadly based on Department of Public Enterprises guidelines, and the same are adhered to.

The employees appointed on contract basis are retained till the short-term requirement exists. As and when some regular vacancy arises, such employees are given opportunity to compete for appointment on regular basis.

Schemes for production of oilseeds and pulses

*272. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have stated many schemes for increasing the quantity of production of oilseeds and pulses in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of these schemes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been less production of oilseeds in the last Kharif crop; and

(d) if so, what is the estimated production alongwith target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government is implementing the schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) & National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) under the aegis of Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses. In addition, National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is implementing schemes for promotion of traditional oilseeds in non-traditional areas and non-traditional oilseeds in traditional areas. It is also promoting the cultivation of tree-borne oilseeds.